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Our Georgia Letter.

"Former Lancastrian" Still Interested in Lancaster Politics---Thinks Col. Springs Should Run for Congress, if for Anything---Bouquets for The News and its Agricultural Department---A Hint to Lancaster's Road Overseers---Other Matters of Interest.

Mr. Editor:—It looks now as if gentle Spring weather will reach us a few days late, as the present weather feels like real Winter weather to us. Yesterday was all fools day too, which shows that the first of April is here. But it's cold yet in these parts.

Announcements of candidates for the various county offices have begun to appear daily in our papers in this county and the candidates are hustling around considerably, trying to persuade the boys that "I'm the only fellow for the place."

Doubtless the candidates in old Lancaster will soon have to yield to the "earnest solicitation of friends" and begin to announce for office. While we no longer have the privilege of voting in Lancaster, we still feel an interest in her politics and are anxious to see who is "coming out" this year.

We notice mention has been made of running Col. Springs for the senate. We are not in favor of this, as we think if he runs for any office at all, it should be congress. But we don't believe he will spare the time to run for either, and we don't think he has any political ambition, anyway.

Citizens of Lancaster are due the editor of The News a unanimous vote of thanks for his earnest efforts to secure some much needed improvements in Lancaster, some of which have already been made and prospects for the others appear bright indeed.

Road overseers in Lancaster county who are negligent of their duty, might as well get to hustling and get their roads in good shape for Prof. Belk will, doubtless, not let up on them, until they do. He's right, too; good roads in a community are well nigh essential to the well fare of her citizens.

The agricultural department of The News is fine. No doubt, many farmers will make their plans and profit according to the advice given through the columns of this department, which is always interesting.

Wrecks on rail-roads are getting more and more frequent, it seems to us. Of course, this is partly due to the fact that there are a great many more rail-roads in operation now than formerly, but in a great many cases, it must certainly be due to carelessness of rail-road employees. But we

hope this is not the case more than half the time, anyway, for what kind of a fellow must a man be, who is intentionally negligent of his duty, especially when so many lives and so much property are at stake. We all know that there are many reckless, careless people in this world though and, perhaps, some of them, are included in rail-road list.

Former Lancastrian.
Macon, Ga.

Widows of Mexican Soldiers

An Effort Being Made to Have their Pensions Increased---Names of those in Lancaster County.

County Supervisor M. C. Gardner is doing what he can to have the national government increase the pensions of the widows of Mexican soldiers, and he deserves much credit for his efforts. He recently wrote Senator Tillman in Washington on the subject and has received the following reply to his letter.

Dear Mr. Gardner: I have your letter of March 30th giving me the names of certain widows of Mexican soldiers. It is very easy to get a pension of an old Mexican soldier raised, but to get the pension of a widow raised is an entirely different matter. Some of these old soldiers married quite young women and the Committee on Pensions is not very willing to increase the pensions of the widows unless they are in destitute circumstances and old and helpless. If you know of any cases like that among the number you mention and will prepare the papers and send to me showing that they are in destitute circumstances and old and helpless. I will try to do what I can for them.

Very truly yours,
B. R. Tillman.

There are five widows of Mexican soldiers in Lancaster county, as far as we have been able to ascertain. They are as follows: Mrs. Janie Adams, widow of Aaron Adams; Mrs. Mahala Gent, widow of John Gent; Mrs. Eliza Phillips, widow of Burrell Phillips; Mrs. Elizabeth Gardner, widow of Ransom Gardner; Mrs. Sallie Jones, widow of C. B. Jones.

—Postmaster Hunter expects to get into his new office, the Masonic building, by the first of May. By the way, some idea of the growth of the Lancaster office may be gathered from the fact that it now has 7000 patrons, 4000 of whom reside in and around Lancaster and the remaining 3000 along the rural free delivery routes that have Lancaster as their starting point. No wonder we need a larger postoffice building.

—To-morrow is Palm Sunday.

Our Public Schools.

Causes of their Inefficiency and How to Improve Them.

Ed. News: Our public schools seem to receive small attention from the public at large, judging from crying evils and a want of their ventilation; and I am sorry to say that their so-called patrons are callous and neglectful.

Some communities (I fear many) are so careless as to scarcely know whether the children attend school or not.

Blame attaches sometimes to all concerned—trustees, teachers, patrons and pupils. Trustees, knowing the poverty of their districts as to school funds, procure the services of a cheap teacher in order to have several months' session: a dear schooling it proves in the end; for some one, wanting a little pin-money, gets the job of teaching the young idea and does not care whether any permanent progress is made or not. The contract ended, neither trustees, patrons, nor teacher can point to any good accomplished; for no effort has been put forth.

Weak districts can find only one road to benefit themselves. First levy special school-tax so as to have funds; secondly, have school during July and August and again from fifteenth of November during six months, thus having eight months' school during the year; thirdly, procure a teacher who is competent and enters heartily into the work; fourthly, pay the teacher enough to enable him to lay up a little money each year, since people in other callings are expected to lay up money; fifthly, when you get the teacher at his work, "hold up his hands," realizing fully that he needs physical, moral and spiritual aid as much as the preacher and that his calling is inferior, if to any, only to that of an apostle of the Christian Church; sixthly, let parents force their children to the school, even at personal sacrifices, and compel them to study at home after affording them proper means and opportunity; seventhly, support the teacher in enforcing discipline, referring all controverted or doubtful points to trustees' court without prejudice.

A good teacher can generally make a living and can lay up a little in other business; for, if qualified to teach, he is competent to undertake other lines of business, and he should not be lowered in the scale of progress by teaching a school—rather should he be elevated by teaching.

At present the average salary of a country teacher is not much over one hundred dollars. Out of this amount he is expected to pay board while teaching and to live on the balance during a period of enforced idleness or

unremunerative labor, for other avenues are closed at that period.

The average ploughman gets a hundred dollars and his board during the whole year. Now which is the better off?—Unquestionably the ploughman. Thus it is made preferable to be a hewer of wood and drawer of water rather than qualify one's self for higher stations on the ladder of progress. So long as these things are so our schools will languish and retrograde.

If a community will build a comfortable and commodious house, secure the services of a qualified teacher and compel the children to attend, there will be a disposition among tenants to seek farms in that section and the school should prosper: otherwise, otherwise.

Land-owners, though non-resident, can make no just complaint of a special school-tax, because it will result in bringing them a better class of tenants; and, if they have no children to educate, they are doubly bound to help in the education of others.

If young men are encouraged to qualify themselves for teaching as an occupation, there will be no lack of teachers who can do acceptable work. Of course some will fail, for proper teaching is a talent as well as some other pursuits in life; but those who fail will soon drop out and float in some other channel adown life's broad stream.

I hope to follow this with one or more articles on this subject; and one of the most heartfelt wishes is that I could have a weighty influence with the people and those who make rules and regulations for our schools.

Tutor.

"Fairview" Name of Proposed New County.

Columbia cor. The News and Courier: The papers in the application for a new county to be known as "Fairview" have been filed in the Governor's office. The proposition comes in good shape, and the petitions are very voluminous. The petition states that Fairview County, if organized, will have 403½ square miles, and of this area 159 square miles will come from Laurens County, 24½ will come from Spartanburg and 220 square miles from Greenville County. Fountain Inn, which seeks the honor of being the county seat, is in Greenville County. The petition states that the population of the new county will be 23,742 under the last census; and that the new county will contain \$2,314,126 worth of taxable property within its borders.

—A drama entitled "Mr. Bob" will be presented at the school on April 27th by the best local talent of the town. Wherever it has been played it has made a decided hit, both public and press being outspoken in its praise.

Lingle-Long.

A Pretty Home Wedding Wednesday Afternoon—An Interesting Account of the Nuptials.

Reported for The News:

A beautiful wedding occurred on last Wednesday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Long of the Creek section, when their handsome daughter Miss Eusee became the bride of Mr. W. Arthur Lingle.

Promptly at 3 o'clock, the hour appointed for the ceremony, to the sweet strains of Mendelssohn's Wedding march, exquisitely rendered by Mrs. J. B. Boldridge, the groom entered the parlor by a door on the left, accompanied by his brother, Mr. Caldwell Lingle. The bride entered by a door on the right, leaning on the arm of her maid of honor, Miss Theodosia Long, meeting and taking their places in front of a screen of ferns reaching from floor to ceiling and interspersed with yellow nasturtiums.

The ceremony was impressively performed by the bride's pastor, Dr. J. H. Boldridge, the soft notes of the organ continuing throughout. At the conclusion, amid a burst of sweet music, the happy couple received the congratulations of their friends. The bride made a charming picture in a lovely costume of white silk—trimmed—and carried a bouquet of snow drops and asparagus ferns with white ribbon streamers. The groom wore the regulation black, with white tie.

An informal luncheon was served by two pretty little girls, Misses Faye Flynn and Edna Lingle.

Mr. Lingle is a son of Mr. B. Lingle and is a most young man and successful farmer, and he is to be congratulated in the winning of a bride of so many good qualities.

Quite a large number of guests were present, and the many handsome and useful gifts attested the high esteem in which the bride and groom are held.

Young Patrick's Good Fortune.

Rock Hill cor. The News and Courier:

Mr. J. Burkmeier Patrick, of this city, who is at school in Atlanta at the Southern Dental College, has had the good fortune to win in the competition a hundred dollar post graduate scholarship in that institution. This is a contest which is usually won by a senior student, although few enter for it. Mr. Patrick is a son of the late Dr. J. B. Patrick, of this city, who was a son of the late Dr. John Burkmeier Patrick, of Charleston.

Mr. Patrick is a nephew of Drs. Charles and Augusta Patrick, of Charleston, a family of skilful dentists.